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ABSTRACT

Noting that parent involvement in their children's schooling can improve academic performance, this report presents statistics on eighth-grade students' perceptions of parent involvement and its effect on their achievement for the school year ending in 1988. The report first highlights the findings as follows: (1) More than 80 percent of eighth-graders reported that they had talked with their parents about school life and selecting courses--six of ten reported that their parents had spoken to a teacher, but few reported that their parents visited their classes; (2) females were more likely than males to report talking with their parents about school, while males were more likely to report that their parents had spoken with a teacher; (3) Asian eighth-graders were less likely than others to report that their parents had talked with a teacher, while Black students were more likely than others to report that their parents had visited their classroom; (4) urban students were more likely than suburban or rural students to report that their parents had spoken with their teachers and had visited classes; and (5) students with three or more misbehavior incidents were less likely to report that their parents limited their television viewing or going out with friends than students with fewer incidents. The report then presents in table form the percentage of students who reported various types of parent involvement, by sex, race or ethnicity, and type of school (urban or rural). These data are then presented in bar graph form. (HTH)

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INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Parent involvement in education

October 1994

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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Parents may be able to improve the academic performance of their children by becoming more involved in their school life. Teachers often request more parent involvement in the form of discussing school life with students, helping students with homework, visiting the classroom, and meeting with teachers. From Head Start to efforts to create effective high schools, parent involvement is regarded as an integral system component.

- **In 1988, more than 80 percent of eighth grade students reported that they had talked with their parents about school life and selecting courses. Six out of ten students reported that their parents had spoken to a teacher or counselor; however, relatively few students reported that their parents had visited their classes.**
- **Female students were more likely to report talking with their parents about school life than male students. Male students were more likely to report that their parents have spoken with a teacher or counselor.**
- **Asian eighth-graders were less likely to report that their parents had talked to their teachers or counselors than other students. Black students were more likely than whites and Asians to report that their parents had visited their classroom. White students were more likely than others, except Asians, to report that their parents had talked with them about selecting courses.**
- **Eighth grade students who attended schools in urban areas were more likely than those who attended schools in suburban or rural areas to report that their parents had spoken with their teachers or counselors and had visited classes, but were less likely to talk about selecting courses.**
- **Students with three or more misbehavior incidents were less likely to report that their parents limited their television viewing or going out with friends than students with fewer than three misbehavior incidents.**

Percentage of eighth grade students who reported various types of parent involvement, by sex, race/ethnicity, and urbanicity of school: School year ending 1988

		Sex		Race/ethnicity					Urbanicity		
Type of parent involvement	Total	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Talked about:											
selecting courses	85	82	89	87	80	82	85	78	82	87	85
school activities	91	89	93	92	91	86	90	87	90	91	91
class studies	88	86	91	89	88	84	87	87	88	89	88
Checked homework	90	91	89	90	93	90	90	90	92	90	89
Limited T.V. viewing	65	64	63	63	60	67	77	59	65	64	60
Limited going out with friends	89	88	90	89	86	89	88	82	90	89	88
Spoke with teacher/ counselor	60	64	56	59	68	57	48	59	64	61	54
Visited classes	29	29	28	26	36	34	28	32	34	28	25

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988.

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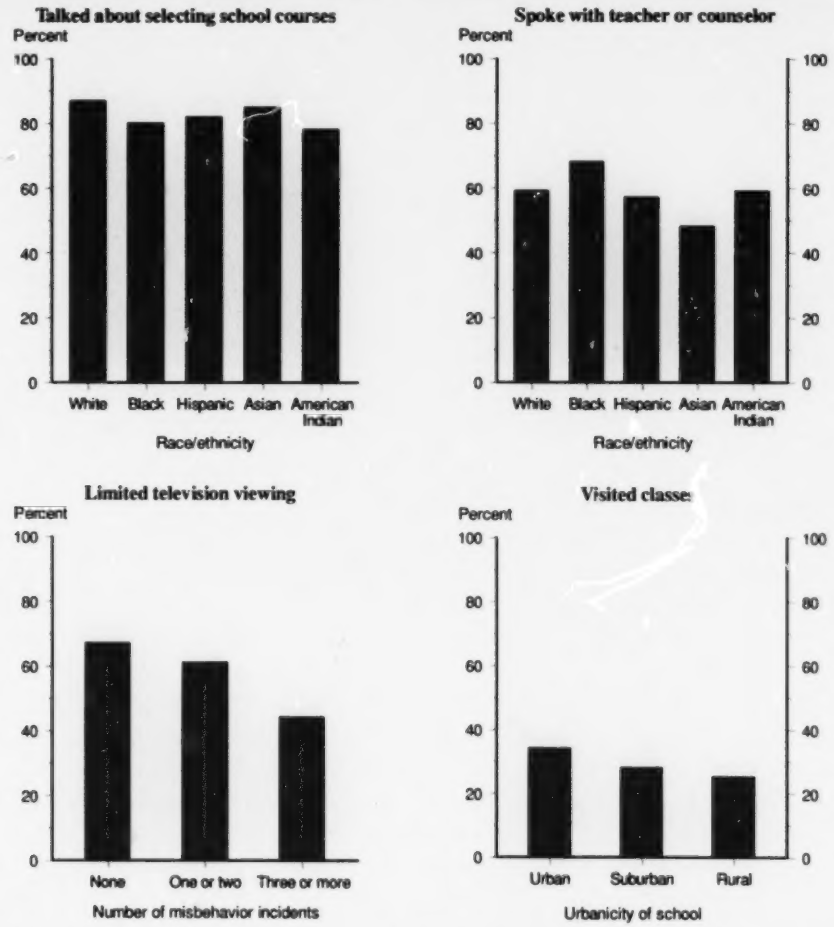
Percentage of eighth grade students who reported various types of parent involvement, by race/ethnicity, misbehavior incidents, and urbanicity of school: 1988



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988.

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